

Claims

1. A cap for protecting the bristles (1) on the end
of a paintbrush (1,2,3), this cap including a
5 housing (7,8) with means (4,5) for its easily
reversible fixing on a ferrule (3) provided at the
distal end of the handle (2) of the paintbrush,
with two shells (7,8) articulated together at one
of their ends and capable of being folded down one
10 toward the other in order to close the housing
(7,8), the latter being provided with means for
locking its closure by means of mutual nesting of
the shells (7,8), characterized in that one (7) of
the shells, which is fixed, is extended by a rigid
15 cradle (6) for receiving the ferrule (3), this
cradle being provided, at least in the vicinity of
its respective ends, with members (4,5) for
respective gripping of the ferrule (3) by means of
elastic deformation of the members (4,5), while
20 the other shell (8), which is movable, is provided
at its distal end with a member (16) for locking
in the closed position of the housing (7,8) by
means of juxtaposed superimposition, which
interacts by means of nesting with a complementary
25 locking member (17) of the fixed shell (7).
2. The cap as claimed in claim 1, characterized in
that the gripping members (4,5) are composed of a
proximal member (4) for gripping at least with an
30 axial stop interacting with a complementary relief
(9) of the ferrule (3), and of a distal member (5)
for gripping at least with radial retention by
means of localized peripheral gripping of the
ferrule (3), such that the attachment of the
35 proximal gripping member (4) on the ferrule (3) of
the paintbrush gives this member a pivot-point
function, about which the cradle (6) tilts as far
as radial gripping of the ferrule (3) by the
distal gripping member (5).

3. The cap as claimed in either of the preceding claims, characterized in that the gripping members (4,5) of the cradle (6) are organized in the form of jaws of which the clamping parts are arranged as at least one radial lip (12).
5
4. The cap as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the profile of the radial lip (12) is faceted in order to grip the ferrule via distant points (10,11).
10
5. The cap as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the cradle (6) includes, on its outer face, a dorsal stiffening rib (14) extending from its proximal end toward the area where it joins the fixed shell (7).
15
6. The cap as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the dorsal rib (14) and the outer face of the fixed shell (7) are substantially flush.
20
7. The cap as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the locking members (16,17) of the shells (7,8) each consist of a set of antagonistic lateral reliefs with radial extension, which are, respectively, provided at the corresponding ends of the shells (7,8) in a substantially radially median area of the housing (7,8).
25
30
8. The cap as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the housing (7,8) is provided with means (19) for guiding the movable shell (8) toward the closed position of the housing (7,8), formed from interacting guide members of the shells (7,8), respectively, at the periphery of their orifice.
35

9. The cap as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the interacting members (19) for guiding the shells (7,8) are formed by a rabbet (19) for mutual superimposed positioning of the shells (7,8), this rabbet (19) being provided along the periphery of the orifice of at least either one of the shells (7,8) in order to receive the edge of the other shell.
10. The cap as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the movable shell (8) includes lateral gripping wings (20) enabling it to be gripped and handled at least when the housing (7,8) is opened by the user.
11. The cap as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the lateral gripping wings (20) are provided as an extension of the lateral reliefs (16,17) of the movable shell (8) in order to strengthen the distal end of the latter (8) forming an orifice for the passage of the handle (2).
12. The cap as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least either one of the shells (7,8) includes ventilation openings (15), particularly shaped as axial slots, such that said openings (15) allow a sizeable circulation of air, without thereby significantly adversely affecting the stiffness of the shell, through the wall of which the ventilation openings (15) are provided.
13. The cap as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it includes an air passage to allow, in the closed position, a circulation of air via its distal end.
14. The cap as claimed in claim 13, characterized in that said air passage is formed by opposite

openings made, respectively, through the fixed shell (7) and the movable shell (8).